

R E M A R K S

In the present Office Action mailed September 10, 2007, claims 1-24 were pending before the Office. Of these, claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 were the only independent claims. The Examiner rejected Claims 1 to 24 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 21, and 22 have been amended herein. No claims have been added, canceled, or withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-24 recite a method and apparatus of determining the interval of which the sum of two numbers reside according to a mathematical algorithm. In part, the Examiner continues to assert that claims 1-24 recite a method and apparatus of determining the interval of which the sum of two numbers resides according to a mathematical algorithm and merely disclose steps of determining the interval in hardware without disclosing the practical application or tangible result. For reasons explained below, Applicants traverse these rejections.

Applicants first respectfully submit that at least "providing **fewer than n** compress circuits" is a concrete and tangible result. Applicants note that the claims recite 'n intervals'. The detailed description of the present application notes in discussing an exemplary embodiment of the present invention that "when more than two ranges/intervals must be checked, the inventive value range check logic 300 may identify an interval in which an integer value resides without requiring

separate compress circuits (e.g., adder logic) for each interval." (Page 8, lines 27-31).

Applicants further note that the detailed description of the present application makes clear that providing fewer than n compress circuits is a concrete and tangible result. In describing the admitted prior art, the detailed description notes that "[w]hile effective at identifying an interval in which an addend or other integer value resides, the conventional value range check circuit 200 **requires a separate compare circuit (e.g., single range check circuit 202a-d) for each interval.** As stated, requiring a separate compare circuit for each interval is expensive and consumes device real estate. A less hardware intensive solution would be desirable." (Page 6, lines 3 to 10). Accordingly, Applicants assert that providing **fewer than n** compress circuits is a concrete and tangible result.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §101 for the above reasons. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the independent claims with explicit language that n is representative of the tangible number of intervals. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that providing fewer than n compress circuits where n is the number of intervals is a concrete and tangible result.

Regardless of the above reasoning, and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended each of the independent claims to clarify that in fact Applicants invention is limited to a practical application and produces a tangible result. Namely, for example in Claim 1, the invention as claimed is limited to "a floating point computation in a processor" that is used to determine "a result." Thus, as

amended, each of the independent claims satisfies the requirements of Section 101 as described by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

Since the Applicants assert that all the independent claims as amended are in condition for allowance and all remaining claims properly depend from the independent claims, Applicants assert that all claims are allowable.

A separate Request for Extension of Time is enclosed herewith, with authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicants do not believe any other Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a Request for Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due regarding this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

Respectfully Submitted,



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